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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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Communist Clandestine RadioPLACE ACQUIRED BY SOURCE 

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"Radio Espana Independiente, Estacion Pyrenaica," a Communist-controlled clandestine station broadcasting anti-Franco propaganda in Spanish to Spain, has been transmitting on short-wave virtually without interruption since at least 1941.\* Although the station has consistently maintained that it is located in the Pyrenees Mountains, it was long recognized as operating from Moscow under Soviet sponsorship. Its parroting of the Radio Moscow line and its obvious affiliations with the Spanish Communist Party in Exile, coupled with careless technical management in early years (such as cross-talk from Radio Moscow transmissions being audible in the background, and accidental introduction of the Radio Moscow identification chimes during transmission intervals) left little concerning the location to be added by direction finder bearings and propagational analyses.

Examinations of Radio Moscow transmitter versus frequency usage have not proven coordination of operation with Radio Espana Independiente, thus reducing the indications of physical affiliation between the two perhaps to studio sharing. It is interesting to note that on certain schedules Radio Moscow regularly broadcast simultaneously in competition with Espana Independiente, creating an appearance of non-collaboration. A relationship with some other transmitter facility in the Moscow area has been suggested by its exclusive use of "out-of-band" broadcasting frequencies, although this practice is not uncommon with clandestine transmitters, and by fluctuations in the number of transmitters in use at various hours.

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Transmitters in use by Espana Independiente increased from the original one to a maximum of seven operating simultaneously during 1948. This number was curtailed to five in 1949, and as a result of the recent change in January 1955 has been reduced to three. Output time increased gradually from the originally observed 15-minute broadcast to a level of 3 hours 18 minutes daily in 1946. In May 1948 this was suddenly doubled to 6 hours 36 minutes daily, only to be cut eight months later to 3 hours 40 minutes daily. A gradual restoration of program time ensued until the level of 6 hours daily (6½ hours on Sunday) was attained in March 1953.

A significant change in this service was noticed on 7 December 1954. Transmitters identified as "Radio Espana Independiente", but not carrying the same program, were intercepted on 7510 and 6930 kilocycles; this behavior continued through 20 December 1954 when the additional broadcasts abruptly ended without explanation. The supplementary service had consisted entirely of repeated readings of the full text of the statutes adopted by the Fifth Congress of the Spanish Communist Party during November 1954. In contrast, the normal frequencies of "Radio Espana Independiente," although devoting considerable time to recordings of speeches made at the Congress, did not carry any material concerning the statutes adopted. The fact that the supplementary transmissions appeared to emanate from Southeast Europe rather than the usual direction of Moscow suggested they might be experimental to test the effectiveness of a new operational site rather than to serve merely as an overflow facility.

The possibility held particular meaning because it was known that two or three transmitters in the Bucharest area were available for clandestine service; these had operated as "Radio Free Yugoslavia" until the softened Soviet attitude to Yugoslavia led to the termination of broadcasts on 29 September 1954. The same facility also functioned for years at other hours on adjacent frequencies as the "Free Greece Radio", and its continued operation as the latter proved the availability of the transmitters. It also would dictate certain limitations in the scheduling of any new operation under another name.

Accordingly, a watch was established to detect any further developments from "Radio Espana Independiente". On 5 January 1955, without publicity or explanation, the station carried out what on the surface appeared to be a more or less routine shift of transmission frequencies in conjunction with renewed curtailment of transmitters and air time. These dropped respectively from five to three and from six hours to four hours. It was in fact a quiet, smooth, complete transfer of operations from Moscow to Bucharest. This conclusion was clearly evinced by the transmitter and time sharing with "Radio Free Greece" during the period the schedules of the two stations overlap\*\* and by the subsequent introduction on 20 February of a two-hour

\*\* The coordinated phase of their schedules now appears as follows:

<u>Time GMT</u>	<u>6399 kcs</u>	<u>6970 kcs</u>	<u>6950 kcs</u>	<u>8075 kcs</u>	<u>7603 kcs</u>
1715-1745	FG	FG			--
1745-1800	XX	XX			--
1800-1900			EE	EE	EE
1900-1915			XX	XX	EE
1915-1945	FG	FG			EE
1945-2000	XX	XX			EE
2000-2030(not Tu/Sa)			EE	EE	EE
2000-2030(Tu/Sa)	FG	FG			EE
2030-2100( " " )	XX	XX			EE
2100-2300(Tu/Sa 2030)			EE	EE	EE

FG: Free Greece Radio

EE: Radio Espana Independiente

XX: Time allowed for change of transmitter's frequency

--: Idle

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daily Spanish service (overt) by Radio Bucharest, the first in its history. It was confirmed by propagational analysis and tracing of transmitter characteristics by

Although the transfer of the operation of "Radio Espana Independiente" from Moscow to Bucharest may be a technical or economic expedient, the implication that the Cominform has assumed added responsibility for the campaign against Spain is obvious. It is therefore worth noting that removal of this activity from Moscow, following the earlier discontinuance of the "Azerbaijan Democratic Radio" which was beamed to Iran from Baku, eliminates all clandestine public broadcasting activity which could be traced within the borders of the Soviet Union.

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